



**THE LENO REPORT**  
**An electronic newsletter to the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**  
**October 2004**

Dear Friends:

Welcome to my monthly e-mail newsletter!

In this issue, you will learn the outcome of my 2004 legislative package, get an update on the movement for marriage equality, find out how my conference for young women in the Western Addition went and get information on upcoming neighborhood events, our Chinese art exhibit and my legislative Select Committee on LGBT Families.

As the November election swiftly approaches, I would like to remind you of the importance of your vote. In addition to the presidential election, there are a number of critical local issues on this year's ballot. Please make your voice heard next month.

Additionally, you can access my [press releases](#) or read more about [legislation](#) I am sponsoring by visiting my website at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a13/>

If you would like further information on any of the topics discussed in this newsletter or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at (415) 557-3013. Your calls are always welcome.

Sincerely,

**MARK LENO**

Assemblyman, 13<sup>th</sup> District

**Sign up to receive The Leno Report**

**If you have been forwarded this e-mail newsletter and would like to be added to the list to receive The Leno Report each month, or if you would like to be taken off the list, please e-mail [Assemblymember.Leno@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Leno@assembly.ca.gov) with the subject line: "The Leno Report."**

## Governor Signs Leno Bills into Law

Assemblyman Leno had a very successful 2004 legislative session. Of the 17 Leno bills that got to the Governor's desk, 15 were signed into law. Here are a few of them:

- **AB 578: Electronic Recording Act** - Sets up a framework under which County Assessors and Recorders can receive documents electronically.
- **AB 594: Implementation of Proposition B, the Solar Bond Revenue Bond** - Allows the City of San Francisco to build projects on remote government properties and supply power through net-metering, expanding the possibilities for building solar power facilities.
- **AB 1796: Food Stamp Eligibility** – Requires California to exercise the federal option of ending policy that prohibits individuals with a prior drug-related felony from receiving federally funded food stamps.
- **AB 2303: Limiting Corporate Executive Compensation in Bankruptcy** - Protects taxpayers from subsidizing huge bonuses for top executives by limiting the ability of utilities to give their corporate executives bonuses while insolvent.
- **AB 2591: Local government enforcement of charter party carrier laws for limousines** - Gives local governments the authority to regulate and enforce charter party carrier laws for limousines, ensuring fairness for the taxi cab industry.

For a complete list of how Assemblyman Leno's bills fared in the 2004 legislative year, please visit: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a13/leg.htm>

## Leno Rallies for Marriage Equality in Washington, DC



Assemblyman Leno joined the Marriage Equality Express Riders on October 11, who caravanned across the country from San Francisco to rally in Washington, DC on National Coming Out Day.

Leno, who authored legislation amending the California Family Code to define a marriage as between "two persons" instead of between a man and a woman, told the crowd assembled a block from the U.S. Capitol, "We don't need to sit as children before a parental-imaged Supreme Court, pleading and begging for our full and first class citizenship rights. We have the tools and the power in our own hands to change the law that San Francisco is challenging on constitutional grounds."

On October 4, 2004, a spirited group of same sex couples who were married in San Francisco and their supporters left on a 10 stop cross-country tour. They arrived in

Washington, DC on October 11<sup>th</sup> for the national rally. Participants rallied against the proposed amendments to write discrimination into the U.S. Constitution as well as to demand the repeal of anti-gay measures like the “Defense of Marriage Act” and “Don't Ask, Don't Tell.” Additionally, they urged the passage of the Permanent Partners Immigration Act and the Federal Employees Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act.

### **There Ought to be a Law!**

Behind any good law is a great idea. Assemblyman Leno's office is already researching issues and putting his 2005 legislative agenda together. If you have a bill idea or if you believe a law should be repealed or changed, we want to hear from you. Please submit your idea to our office by sending an email to [Assemblymember.Leno@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Leno@assembly.ca.gov), and please put “There Ought to be a Law” in the subject line.

### **Constituents Weigh in on “Outsourcing”**

In July, Assemblyman Mark Leno sent 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly District residents a questionnaire about outsourcing. Outsourcing is the business practice of sub-contracting a set of functions from one business to another. In our current economic climate, we have seen an increased number of businesses use outsourcing as a strategy to limit the costs associated with labor or training their existing employees. It is all too common for them to outsource labor to another country as well. Outsourcing has received a considerable amount of attention in the current presidential election.

We got a great response from the questionnaire, with 1,650 people responding so far. About 88% of respondents said that outsourcing was a big concern for them, 9% said that it was not a concern for them, and 3% did not give an opinion. Those who were concerned about outsourcing cited privacy concerns as well as the use of taxpayer money to pay contractors who outsource work to non-US workers. We also heard from constituents with differing opinions, including those who pointed out the counter phenomenon of the “onshoring” of new jobs, created in this country by foreign companies. We appreciate hearing a variety of opinions on this issue, as we are best served when we are well-informed with the most up-to-date data.

This information will be added to responses from across California to develop legislation in the upcoming session addressing this serious problem. We thank all of the residents who responded, and ask any others who would like to share their opinion on this subject to e-mail Assemblyman Mark Leno at [Assemblymember.Leno@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Leno@assembly.ca.gov)

### **“Transitioning Health Care” Hearing on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

In addition to facing discrimination in their daily lives, transgender people face a host of barriers to basic medical care that can have a devastating impact on their health.

Insurance companies, for example, often exempt people from care for cancer or other serious ailments if the cancer can theoretically be linked to sex re-assignment surgeries.



To explore these issues, Assemblyman Mark Leno, Chair of the California State Assembly Select Committee on LGBT Families, will hold a hearing on ways to expand and improve healthcare quality and access for transgender people.

Assemblyman Leno has invited doctors and health care professionals, local officials, community activists, state health department representatives and individuals in the transgender community to share their testimony before his Select Committee on LGBT families. The hearing will examine barriers transgender people face including insurance exemptions, cultural insensitivity and affordability. Additionally, the hearing will explore ways the state can partner with the local community to address these concerns.

Please join Assemblyman Leno for this important hearing on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street at Octavia, from 6-8 p.m. For more information, please call Assemblyman Leno's district office (415) 557-3013.

### **Chinese Art on Display on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

Assemblyman Mark Leno is proud to host an art display of many works by renowned artists from China. The works, which will include a variety of oil, water color, pencil sketches and sculptures, will be on display for the public to enjoy in the lobby of the State Building at 455 Golden Gate Avenue from November 12-19<sup>th</sup>. Please join Assemblyman Leno and the artists for a special viewing of the art work, as they kick off the display on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. in the lobby of the State Building, 455 Golden Gate Avenue.

### **Tel-Hi “Welcome to the Neighborhood Party” on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**

North Beach Place, which offers 341 affordable family and senior apartments in Telegraph Hill, is reopening its doors following a \$100 million renovation. In coordination with the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center (Tel-Hi), Assemblyman Mark Leno will be hosting a party to welcome new and returning residents to the neighborhood.

Founded in 1890, Tel-Hi provides services to low- to moderate- income children, families and seniors. The center helps to create and strengthen community bonds, provide health and wellness programs, and broaden educational and cultural experiences for the surrounding neighborhoods.

The event will provide neighbors with an opportunity to learn about the many services Tel-Hi provides. Please help welcome your new neighbors on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, 660 Lombard Street from 6-8 p.m.

### **Western Addition Girls Conference**

Three hundred young women between the ages of 10-18 descended on the Western Addition African American Art and Culture Complex on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> to take part in Assemblyman Leno's Young Woman's Conference.



Young women from 10 elementary, middle and high schools participated in a variety of workshops and a panel discussion, shared their own poetry and creative writing with the crowd, and won prizes for their involvement. The young women learned more about peer pressure, self-esteem, health and fitness, gang violence, higher education, career building and community involvement.

Thank you to all those who worked to make this event a success, especially to the panelists who spoke with the young women on important topics: Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, Board of Education Member Heather Hiles, Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White, Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier, Planned Parenthood Golden Gate President Dian J. Harrison and Supervisor Fiona Ma.

### **VOTE!**

In just about every election cycle in the U.S., races are decided on fewer than 100 votes. A small number of voters can make the difference in the outcome of any election, as in the 2000 presidential election, when the race was decided by 500 votes in Florida. In 1960, an additional vote per precinct in Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, and Texas would have denied John F. Kennedy the presidency by placing Richard Nixon in the White House.

You can register to vote, apply to vote by mail and learn more about the issues on the ballot by visiting the California Secretary of State's website:

[http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_vr.htm](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm)

### **Leno Office News**

- Assemblyman Leno has a new addition to his Sacramento Office. We are proud to announce that Kathy Dresslar has come on board as our new Legislative Director. She has more than 15 years experience in and around the Capitol. Most recently, she

served as Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg's Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, and prior to that she served as a lobbyist for the Children's Advocacy Institute.

- Congratulations to Assemblyman Leno's District Director, Susan Sun who was married to Phil Ting on September 11<sup>th</sup> in Monterey. Assemblyman Leno was proud to officiate the beachside wedding for the happy couple and over 200 guests.
- Assemblyman Leno's office was saddened by the recent passing of loyal and dedicated office volunteer, Irene Miller. Irene had volunteered with Leno since his days as a City Supervisor. She was a weekly breath of fresh air for everyone who worked in and visited our office, and will be missed very much.